

# ***Ujana Salama: A cash plus model for safe transitions to a healthy and productive adulthood: Findings on transactional sex***

**Lusajo Kajula, Ph.D.**

UNICEF Office of Research - Innocenti

**Tia Palermo, Ph.D.**

University at Buffalo

LINEA annual project meeting, LSHTM  
October 14, 2020



Photo credit: Rikke Le Kirkegaard

# Background

Pilot intervention and study to understand how to leverage social protection to improve adolescent well-being

- Previous study found that Tanzania's Productive Safety Net (PSSN) had positive impacts on school attendance, decision-making and some other limited areas of adolescent well-being
- But, half of adolescents 14-17 years had already dropped out of school prior to program.
- Evidence that **adolescents needed additional, complementary programming** to safely transition to adulthood.

The programme analysed is targeted at the most vulnerable youth & implemented within a national government cash transfer programme. This **is the first evaluation of this kind.**



# Productive Social Safety Net (PSSN)

- Reaches 1 million households nationally
- Targets poorest 10% of population (extremely food insecure)
- Comprises
  - Unconditional + conditional **cash transfer** (maximum TZS 38,000 bi-monthly transfer; 17 USD)
  - **Public works** (cash for work) 2300 TZS/day in lean season
  - **Livelihoods Enhancement** (savings promotion, basic training, productive grant)

# The Cash Plus Intervention

**Cash Plus:** A multi-sectoral project targeting adolescents 14-19 years from poor households benefiting from Tanzania Social Action Fund's (TASAF) Productive Social Safety Nets programme (PSSN). Technical assistance from UNICEF and Tanzanian Commission for AIDS (TACAIDS)

**The Cash:** cash transfer to the household (PSSN)

## The Plus:

- 12 weeks of [training on livelihoods and life skills](#) (including HIV/SRH & gender equity) → *midline data collected 6 months after start of intervention*
- **Mentoring** (including referrals) & **productive grant**
- Linkages to **adolescent-friendly services** (e.g. sexual and reproductive health; violence response) in government primary health care facilities



# Study Design: Cluster Randomized Control Trial

## Design

130 villages (clusters) in four districts in Tanzania randomized into:

- **Treatment:** Cash+ adolescent-focused training and services layered onto PSSN
- **Control:** Cash (PSSN) only

**Study sample** 2,191 youth (14-19 years old at baseline) from 1,717 households

Transactional sex sample for analysis: Unmarried youth who had sexually debuted (n=639)

## Data collection

- Baseline: pre-intervention/pre-randomization survey (2017)
- Wave 2: 12-month follow-up survey (2018)
- Wave 3: 24-month follow-up (2019)
- Mobile surveys: on-going (2020)
- Wave 4: 32-month follow-up expected 2021

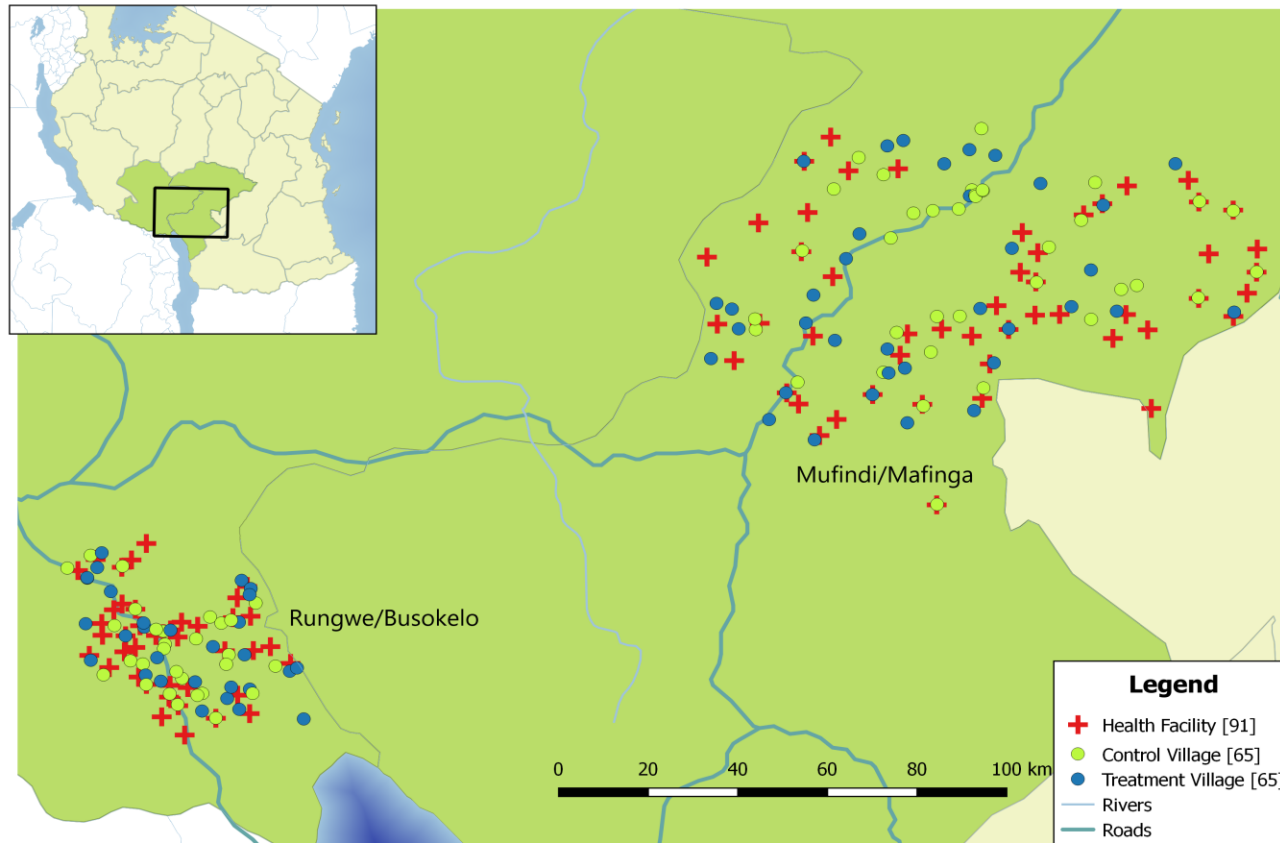


EDI Global

A Mathematica Company



# Study areas, Iringa & Mbeya



# Definition of transactional sex used

- Used definition, items, and additive scale recommended in Wamoyi et al. (2019)
- Analyzed among the sub-set on unmarried individuals
- Excluded married youth because we did not capture information on marital and extra-marital relationships

CRITICAL REVIEW: ORIGINAL ARTICLE

OPEN

## Improving the Measurement of Transactional Sex in Sub-Saharan Africa: A Critical Review

Joyce Wamoyi, PhD,\* Meghna Ranganathan, PhD,† Nambusi Kyegombe, PhD,† and Kirsten Stoebebau, PhD‡§

# Some caveats for interpreting findings

## 1. PSSN payment delays after March 2019

### 1. Wide net of outcomes; **significant programme impacts on all outcomes not expected**

### 1. **Timing of Wave 3 interviews**

- 17 months after the start of face-to-face training
- 12 months after supply-side strengthening & start of mentoring
- 2-4 months after delivery of the final component (productive grant)
- Immediately after PSSN payment delay (last payment was March 2019)



# Findings



# No Impacts on transactional sex indicators (ANCOVA), unmarried adolescents who have sexually debuted

	ITT Impact	ATT Impact	Baseline Mean	Round 3 Cash Only	Round 3 Cash Plus
				Mean	Mean
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Provided money, favours, or gifts for sex last 12 months, males only	0.040	0.138	0.032	0.157	0.197
	(0.04)	(0.15)			
N	342	342	342	185	157
Index (additive; range 0-3), females only	0.185	0.350	0.414	1.111	1.296
	(0.09)	(0.18)			
N	297	297	297	162	135

Notes: Linear models were estimated on the panel of youth interviewed both at baseline and Round 3. Regressions control for age and outcome value at baseline, district x size fixed effects. Standard errors adjusted for clustering at the community level are reported in parentheses. \*p<0.05, \*\*p<0.01. Missing values at baseline were replaced with zero.

*I was only 15 years old. Because of hardships, I left here [Mufindi] to go to Dar es Salaam to work. Someone took me there, and it is there that I met one young man. This young man is the one who deceived me, seeing that I had left the village to go to the city; **he promised me he would get me out of hardships.***

**F, 18 years, completed Standard 7, Mufindi**

*He promised that he will marry me and there I will do business, I knew I would be at a better place rather than just sitting idle... I said okay, that will be better. But it's just like that, my dream wasn't realized, **he conned me**. Female, **17 years, completed Standard 7, Rungwe (Treatment)***

# Findings: impacts on **pathways** between poverty & transactional sex

## Increased

- business start-ups
- livestock keeping
- self-esteem (females)

## Decreased

- depressive symptoms

## No overall impacts

- Primary or secondary school attendance or attainment
- drop-out from secondary increased among sub-sample of older females (n=28 T v. 17 C)

# Findings: impacts on related outcomes

## Increased

- gender equitable attitudes (males)
- HIV prevention knowledge & testing
- contraceptive knowledge

## Decreased

- sexual violence experiences (females)
- perpetration of physical violence (males)
- Delayed sexual debut by four months (females)

## No impacts

- Marriage/cohabitation, or having boyfriend/girlfriend
- pregnancy
- age disparate relationships
- use of contraception
- experiences of emotional/physical violence
- Violence-related help-seeking

Journal of Adolescent Health xxx (2020) 1–7



ELSEVIER

Original article

### Impacts of a Cash Plus Intervention on Gender Attitudes Among Tanzanian Adolescents

Yekaterina Chzhen, Ph.D.<sup>a,\*</sup>, Leah Prencipe, M.P.H.<sup>b</sup>, Frank Eetaama, M.D.<sup>c</sup>, Paul Luchemba, M.Sc.<sup>d</sup>, Tumpe Mnyawami Lukongo, M.A.<sup>d</sup>, and Tia Palermo, Ph.D.<sup>c</sup>; on Behalf of the Tanzania Adolescent Cash Plus Evaluation Team

<sup>a</sup>Department of Sociology, Trinity College Dublin, Dublin, Ireland

<sup>b</sup>Department of Public Health, Erasmus University Medical Center (Erasmus MC), Rotterdam, the Netherlands

<sup>c</sup>Children and AIDS Section, UNICEF Tanzania, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

<sup>d</sup>Tanzania Social Action Fund, United Republic of Tanzania, Dodoma, Tanzania

<sup>e</sup>Department of Epidemiology and Environmental Health, State University of New York at Buffalo, Buffalo, New York

Article history: Received March 31, 2020; Accepted July 12, 2020

Keywords: Gender attitudes; Violence; Sexual and reproductive health; Adolescents; Tanzania; Africa

JOURNAL OF  
ADOLESCENT  
HEALTH

[www.jahonline.org](http://www.jahonline.org)



EDI Global

A Mathematica Company





# Conclusion & Discussion

- First evaluation of a cash plus pilot for adolescents within a large-scale government, social protection programme
- No impacts on transactional sex
- Some protective impacts on pathways & related outcomes
- High potential for scalability
  - Programme targets poorest, is combined with health service strengthening, & is implemented within government structures.



# Tanzania Adolescent Cash Plus Evaluation Team

**UNICEF Office of Research:** Valeria Groppo, Lusajo Kajula (qualitative co-PI), Jacobus de Hoop, Leah Prencipe, Jennifer Waidler;

**University at Buffalo:** Tia Palermo (co-Principal Investigator);

**EDI Global:** Johanna Choumert Nkolo (co-Principal Investigator), Respichius Mitti (co-Principal Investigator), Bhoke Munanka;

**TASAF:** Paul Luchemba, Tumpe Mnyawami Lukongo;

**TACAIDS:** Aroldia Mulokozi; UNICEF Tanzania: Ulrike Gilbert, Paul Quarles van Ufford, Rikke Le Kirkegaard, Frank Eetaama.



# Acknowledgments

- The evaluation team would like to acknowledge the support of the TASAF and TACAIDS, in particular Ladislaus Mwamanga (TASAF), Amadeus Kamagenge (TASAF), and Mishael Fariji (TASAF) for the implementation of this evaluation, as well as and Leonard Maboko (TACAIDS) and Jumanne Issango (TACAIDS). In addition, the UNICEF personnel instrumental to the initial planning stages of this pilot and study include: Beatrice Targa, Patricia Lim Ah Ken, Victoria Chuwa, Naomi Neijhoft and Tulanoga Matwimbi.
- **Funding** for this pilot and evaluation has generously been provided by Oak Foundation and UNICEF Tanzania. Additional funding for the evaluation was provided by DFID and Sida, both through a grant to UNICEF Office of Research—Innocenti supporting the Transfer Project. Additional funding to complete the implementation was generously provided by Irish Aid Tanzania.
- We would like to acknowledge the hard-working field teams of EDI Global, who conducted the data collection for this study to the highest professional standards.

# Ahsentani!

More info on the study:

<https://transfer.cpc.unc.edu/tools/reports/tanzania-reports-2/>

Contact:

[lkajula@unicef.org](mailto:lkajula@unicef.org)

[tiapaler@buffalo.edu](mailto:tiapaler@buffalo.edu)